

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
BioLab Fire Westlake - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial Polrep
BioLab Fire Westlake

Westlake, LA
Latitude: 30.2353336 Longitude: -93.2595198

To: Craig Carroll, Region 6
Reggie Cheatham, USEPA OLEM
Daniel Lambert, LDEQ

From: Gary Moore, FOSC

Date: 8/27/2020

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: STATE	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 8/27/2020	Start Date: 8/27/2020
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

Facility Fire

1.1.2.1 Location

910 I-10 Service Rd
West Lake, LA 70669

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The incident resulted from a chemical reaction fire involving water and granular chlorine pool shock at a manufacturing facility from damage caused by Hurricane Laura.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The manufacturing facility was damaged as a result of Hurricane Laura which allowed water to impact the bulk containers of trichloro-s-trione (granular pool shock). A chemical reaction and fire ultimately resulted in a plume that traveled northeast into the City of Westlake.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The EPA became aware of this incident at approximately 9:30 am as a result of a call from LDEQ. At the time of the report to the Louisiana State Police (LSP) Hotline at approximately 8:40 am, it was reported that there was no fire but decomposing product. The EPA contacted the Plant Manager at approximately 9:40 am and he was on his way back to the plant from evacuating due to the Hurricane. By 10:00 am, the LDEQ informed EPA that there was a fire. The LSP and LDEQ personnel responded to the incident. At approximately 11:45 am, EPA dispatched the ASPECT aircraft out of Addison, TX and its START Contractor out of Baton Rouge, LA. The EPA coordinated with the LSP and they indicated that the company hired US Fire Pump/Hazmat Specialty Services to extinguish the fire and handle the environmental response and cleanup activities and CTEH to perform facility and community air monitoring. These RP contractors were mobilizing from Houston, TX and Baton Rouge, LA.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Upon arrival of US Fire Pump/Hazmat Specialty Services, they began setting up to flood the building with water to knock down the vapors and extinguish the fire. Fire water began being pumped around 3:00 pm. These actions were somewhat successful until another area of the facility began smoking because of

product decomposition.

The LDEQ and CTEH conducted initial limited air monitoring prior to the EPA team arrival at approximately 2:30 pm. The EPA team supplemented the air monitoring activities being conducted by CTEH and LDEQ. The initial readings were below the AEGL-1 guidelines but since that time elevated detection above those levels have been recorded but there is some concern about the accuracy of the readings. The team will attempt to do comparisons to confirm the equipment readings.

As of 10:30 pm (August 27), the decomposition and plume are still ongoing. The fire fighting team and cleanup team are still actively working the incident.

As of 11:30 pm (August 27), the plume has diminished significantly and is not noticeable beyond the property boundary. The fire fighting and cleanup team are still actively working on the smaller warehouse to completely eliminate the plume. Air monitoring will continue by the LDEQ, EPA, and CTEH until the incident is complete as determined by the LSP.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The LSP indicated that the fire fighting team is continuing to flow copious amounts of water on the material to react it out. The second plume had significantly decreased by approximately 11:30 pm.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

The LSP plans to continue this approach until the decomposition is complete. Additionally, air monitoring will continue in the community as well by LDEQ, EPA, and CTEH. The shelter-in-place continues but was extended from 0.5 miles to 1 mile based upon air monitoring readings.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Louisiana State Police - IC
Biolab - RPIC

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.